GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:891
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2007
MISSING BANGLADESHI AND AFGAN NATIONALS
Nandy Shri Amitava;Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Bangladeshi and Afgan nationals have gone missing in India ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether 4,742 Pakistani nationals have also gone missing after a cricket match at Mohali (Punjab) taking advantage of the confidence building measures initiated as a part of Indo-Pak peace process;

(d) whether these missing persons are behind the terrorist activities in the country; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to trace the missing foreign nationals ?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) & (b): As per the available reports, the number of Bangladeshi nationals who came to India and did not take exit within the period of validity of their visa, i.e. who overstayed upto 31.12.2005 is 12,338. Similarly, the number of Afghan nationals who overstayed upto 31.12.2005 is 11,845.

(c) & (d): No, Sir. As per available information, during March, 2005, 2754 Pakistani nationals came to India from the Wagah checkpost holding Special Cricket visas, valid for 9 days to watch the Indo-Pak cricket match in Mohali. Out of them, 11 did not return to Pakistan. There is no report about the indulgence of missing Pak cricket fans in terrorist activities.

(e): The State Governments/UT Administrations have been empowered under section 3 (2) (c) of the Foreigners Act, 1946 to detect and deport foreign nationals illegally staying in India. Administrative instructions are issued from time to time requesting the State Governments/UT Administrations to detect and deport illegally staying foreigners.